

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A cardiac harness configured to fit about a patient's heart, comprising a plurality of individual modules assembled together to form the harness.
2. The cardiac harness of Claim 1, wherein one of the modules is more compliant than another of the modules.
3. The cardiac harness of Claim 1, wherein at least two adjacent modules are selectively releaseable from one another.
4. The cardiac harness of Claim 3, wherein at least two adjacent modules are connected to each other.
5. The cardiac harness of Claim 4, wherein the zip coupling comprises a zipper.
6. The cardiac harness of Claim 4, wherein the zip coupling comprising an elongate male member that is selectively engaged with an elongate female member.
7. The cardiac harness of Claim 1, wherein at least one pair of adjacent modules are permanently affixed to one another.
8. The cardiac harness of Claim 7, wherein at least one pair of adjacent modules are connected by silicone.
9. The cardiac harness of Claim 1, wherein at least one of the modules comprises a spring hinge.
10. A cardiac harness configured to fit about a patient's heart, comprising:  
a first module which extends along a first portion of a circumference of the harness; and  
a second module which extends along a second portion of the circumference of the harness;  
wherein the first and second modules are connected to one another.
11. The cardiac harness of Claim 10, wherein the first and second modules are connected to one another by a coupling mechanism interposed between the modules.
12. The cardiac harness of Claim 11, wherein the coupling mechanism comprises a zip coupling mechanism.
13. The cardiac harness of Claim 11, wherein the coupling mechanism comprises silicone.

14. A cardiac harness configured to fit about a patient's heart, comprising a zip coupler configured to selectively draw a first portion of the harness adjacent a second portion of the harness.
15. The cardiac harness of Claim 14 additionally comprising a secondary coupler adapted to hold the first portion of the harness adjacent the second portion.
16. The cardiac harness of Claim 15, wherein the secondary coupler comprises a magnet.
17. A method of making a cardiac harness, comprising:
  - providing a plurality of modules; and
  - connecting the modules to one another to form the harness.
18. The method of Claim 17, wherein a connecting member is disposed between each module.
19. The method of Claim 18, wherein the connecting member comprises a zip coupler.
20. The method of Claim 18, wherein the connecting member comprises silicone.
21. A method of treating a diseased heart, comprising
  - providing a cardiac harness configured to fit about a patient's heart and comprising a first end and a second end that are adapted to be coupled to one another;
  - rolling at least a portion of the cardiac harness about an axis;
  - placing the rolled cardiac harness adjacent a portion of the patient's heart; and
  - unrolling the harness so that the unrolled harness fits about the heart.
22. The method of Claim 21 additionally comprising connecting the first and second ends to each other after the harness has been unrolled about the heart.
23. A method of deploying a cardiac harness about a patient's heart, comprising:
  - providing a cardiac harness configured to fit about a patient's heart and comprising a first end and a second end that are adapted to be coupled to one another;
  - providing a deployment apparatus comprising a deployment member;
  - wrapping at least a portion of the harness about the deployment member;
  - positioning the deployment member adjacent the heart; and

moving the deployment member about the heart in a manner so that the harness unwraps from the deployment member onto the heart as the deployment member is moved about the heart.

24. The method of Claim 23 additionally comprising rotating the deployment member while moving it about the heart.

25. The method of Claim 23, wherein the deployment apparatus comprises a second deployment member.

26. The method of Claim 25, additionally comprising wrapping a portion of the harness about the second deployment member so that the harness is wrapped in a scroll fashion about the first and second deployment members.

27. The method of Claim 26 comprising simultaneously moving the first and second deployment members about opposite sides of the heart.

28. A cardiac harness, comprising a plurality of modules adapted to be coupled to each other, each of the modules comprising a plurality of spring elements.

29. A cardiac harness comprising a plurality of modules, each module having a first edge, a second edge, and a zip coupling mechanism for selectively drawing the first and second edges adjacent to one another.

30. A cardiac harness, comprising first and second modules and a zip coupler which connects said first and second modules to each other.

31. A cardiac harness configured to fit about a patient's heart, comprising a base portion, an apex portion and a medial portion between the apex and base portions, the apex portion comprising a plurality of spiral shaped elongate members, each spiral shaped elongate member connected at one end to the medial portion and at the other end to a terminal member.

32. The cardiac harness of Claim 31, wherein the plurality of spiral shaped elongate members together form a generally conical shaped region of the harness.

33. A cardiac harness configured to fit about a patient's heart, comprising:

a base portion;

an apex portion; and

a medial portion between the apex and base portions;

the base portion comprising interconnected spring elements that are oriented so that the collective spring force around the circumference of the base portion is in a first direction;

the medial portion comprising interconnected spring elements oriented so that the collective spring force around at least a portion of the circumference of the medial portion is in a second direction substantially different than the first direction.

34. The cardiac harness of Claim 33, wherein the second direction has significant spring force components in directions both transverse and parallel to a longitudinal axis of the harness.

35. A cardiac harness having a central cavity for receiving a portion of a patient's heart such that the harness contacts the wall of the heart substantially throughout said cavity, said harness having a plurality of protrusions extending inwardly such that interference between the protrusion and the wall of the heart aids retention of said harness on said heart.

36. The cardiac harness of Claim 35, wherein at least one of the protrusions comprises a barb configured to pierce a portion of the heart wall.

37. The cardiac harness of Claim 35, wherein at least one of the protrusions exerts a biasing force against the heart wall when the heart is disposed in the cavity.